



TO: The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings Blake
and Members of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400 City Hall,
100. N. Holiday Street
Attn: Karen Randle

FROM: Sheryl Goldstein, Director, Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice

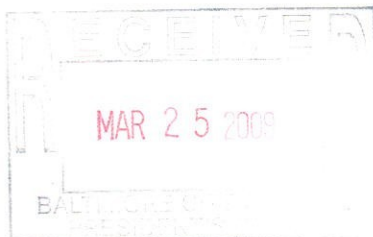
DATE: March 23, 2009

RE: City Council Bill No. 09-0291 – Gun Offender Registration

City Council Bill No.: **09-0291 – Gun Offender Registration**

The Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice supports this legislation that will expand the registration requirements of the City's Gun Offender Registry to include juvenile offenders. Additionally, proposed amendments to the current law will add the offenses of possessing a long gun (Article 19, § 59-1) and discharging a firearm (Article 19, § 59-2) and also clarify ambiguity related to registration requirements for defendants found not criminally responsible and defendants who move into Baltimore City during the three years following their initial registration.

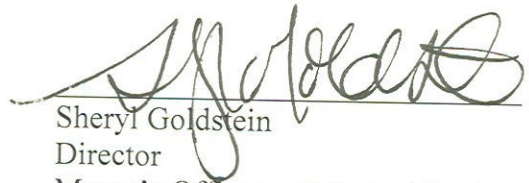
Baltimore's Gun Offender Registry currently requires adults convicted of gun offenses in Baltimore City to register their current address and report to the Baltimore Police Department every six months for a period of three years following their conviction or period of incarceration. Within 48 hours of conviction, each gun offender is required to file their names and aliases, a photograph, and a confirmed address. Failure to comply with the registration requirement is a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of not more than \$1000 or imprisonment of not more than 12 months or both. This new legislation would require juveniles who are charged and convicted as adults to register in the same manner.



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Last year, over 200 juveniles were charged with adult gun offenses. In addition, in 2008, there were 28 juvenile homicides and 88 juvenile non-fatal shooting victims. A national study found an increase in juveniles as perpetrator and victims of violence. The study shows that between 2002 and 2007, the number of homicides involving black male juveniles as victims grew by 31% and, as perpetrators, by 43%. The numbers escalate even more within the same group when guns were used as weapons, with increases of 54% for victims and 47% for perpetrators. Adding juveniles to Baltimore's Gun Offender Registry will help Baltimore combat juvenile gun violence by enabling proactive monitoring of juvenile gun offenders – to prevent them from re-offending and providing increased oversight and monitoring.

Amending the City's current Gun Offender Registry to include juveniles will provide law enforcement with another important tool for cracking down on gun offenders and make our City safer.



Sheryl Goldstein
Director
Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice